

*Education*

circumstances of parents, certainly applies to our young people regardless of the province in which they may happen to reside.

Standards of teachers' salaries are by no means equal in different parts of Canada. I said a moment ago that the costs of providing education in Canada were advancing by leaps and bounds. There is one aspect of that advance in cost which none of us should deplore, and that is the belated tendency now to recognize the contribution the teaching profession is making to the country in the fashioning of young lives in our land by increasing teachers' salaries. I speak with some experience on the subject because my father was a member of the teaching profession. There are all too few municipalities which have had either the means or the will to give adequate and tangible financial recognition to the contribution the teaching profession is making to the moulding of their young people.

In my city the board of education is in process today of making substantial increases in the scale of teachers' salaries. There are many places in the country where the municipalities—yes, and the provinces—have not the means of providing adequate salaries for the teachers. The importance of the teaching profession cannot be exaggerated. While that profession is not going to attract people simply on the basis of the salaries paid, and while it will always have an appeal to motives other than the need or the wish to earn good salaries, nevertheless that profession must have offered to it salaries reasonably commensurate with the service that the members of that profession are rendering to our country, if we have any hope of continuing to attract to the profession the best minds in Canada available for the instruction of the young.

There is nothing more important than that service to the young people of our land, and this fact must be recognized. These various features I have indicated as establishing the importance of education, establishing the pressing necessity of providing assistance to the provinces and municipalities in meeting expanding educational costs, the desirability of using the vehicle of education to equalize to a greater extent than has been hitherto achieved opportunities in life for our young people, all point directly to the necessity for some such assistance as is proposed in this motion.

There are many well established precedents for providing out of the dominion treasury assistance to the provinces with respect to education. When I spoke on the subject on October 19, 1949, I mentioned some of these.

One calls to mind of course the assistance that has been given in times past by the dominion in the field of technical education. In the second place, we recall the very substantial contribution which was made out of federal funds to the successful dominion-provincial youth training plan.

Third, and probably the one that will leap to our minds as being perhaps the leading precedent, was the assistance provided out of federal funds for the training in various educational institutions in the provinces of no fewer than 130,000 veterans of world war II.

Fourth is the fact that we have been voting in this parliament in recent years sums averaging about \$50,000 a year to the various schools of social work in the universities of this country. Some of us have been complaining that the federal grants have not been adequate, that \$50,000 a year distributed among the schools of social work scattered right across the country has not left very much for any one school. The grants have, however, been very helpful. I hope that that commendable beginning will be advanced this year.

Then one could mention also the assistance given through such avenues as the National Physical Fitness Act and other precedents for providing federal assistance in this field.

There is also the vitally important field of research. Research is carried on in so many ways and in so many different types of institutions across this country. Universities, hospitals, schools, private institutions, philanthropic organizations and others have been carrying on this work. The house is well aware of scholarships that have been provided by such federal organizations as the national research council. Research is something that brings benefits, not only to a municipality or to a province, but to the entire country. Therefore regard must be had to the enjoyment of the benefits in all parts of the country in addressing ourselves to the need of meeting rising costs.

There is always a place for consideration of public opinion on this question, and public opinion, as reflected in the expressed views of those who have been studying this problem has, I think, shown that there is almost a uniform sentiment in favour thereof. There has been only the occasional rift, such as when the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner) spoke on this subject in the house on May 22, 1950, and made what I think most members of this house regarded as a most unfortunate speech. As I say, there has been a most impressive uniformity of thought on this subject among all the organizations